

Eisenhower Medical Center has provided high quality, compassionate patient care through a full range of state-of-the-art diagnostic treatment, and emergency facilities to residents of the Coachella Valley and beyond for 30 years.

The spirit of volunteerism, philanthropy and patriotism found at Eisenhower is truly impressive. There are more than 800 active volunteers working at the medical center and nearly 1,800 Auxiliary members.

The Boards of Trustees, Directors and Governors, physicians, employees and volunteers are dedicated to maintaining Eisenhower's leadership role in providing quality patient care and community service.

Eisenhower's reputation for outstanding patient care attracts physicians and professional staff from the finest in their fields. Their expertise in clinical care, combined with compassion and understanding, has made Eisenhower the health care provider of choice in the Coachella Valley.

The 261 bed hospital continues to be a leader in providing innovative treatment, leading-edge procedures and important clinical research in cardiology, orthopedics and cancer care.

Eisenhower conducts the type of research typically found at university-based medical centers in the fields of cancer care, orthopedics, infectious diseases and cardiology. The medical center's contributions to exploring new treatment methods in these fields are shaping the future of medicine around the world.

Eisenhower Medical Center is unique among hospitals, bringing health education through the Annenberg Center for Health Sciences, drug and alcohol treatment through the Betty Ford Center, and care for victims of child abuse through the Barbara Sinatra Children's Center.

As Eisenhower looks towards its future, all of the constituents of California's 44th Congressional District can be comforted in knowing of the expansion of their services. The new millennium will usher in the extension of programs in Cardiology, Cancer Care, and Orthopedics.

Again, I would like to recognize the contributions that Eisenhower Medical Center has made to the thousands of constituents who have received medical assistance over the past 30 years.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3423

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today a bill to make certain reservists eligible for burial at Arlington National Cemetery. I am joined by the Honorable FRANK WOLF, Honorable MIKE BILIRAKIS, Honorable STEVE BUYER, Honorable MIKE SIMPSON, Honorable RICHARD BAKER, Honorable ROB SIMMONS and Honorable TOM DAVIS in introducing this measure. Our bill would allow burial at Arlington National Cemetery of (1) reserve members under age 60 who but for their

age would have been eligible at the time of their death for retired pay under title 10; and (2) reserve component members who die in the line of duty while on active duty for training or inactive duty training. The bill would be effective for interments occurring after the date of enactment.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud that this Nation affords a final resting place for every veteran who has honorably served in its Armed Forces. The Department of Veterans Affairs administers 133 national cemeteries throughout the United States, and since 1980 has provided \$82 million in grants to states to establish or expand 42 state veterans cemeteries. Last year, over 82,000 veterans and family members were interred in VA cemeteries and more than 14,000 veterans and family members were buried in state veterans cemeteries. In addition, 3,727 veterans and family members were buried at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), which is administered by the Department of the Army.

I will not recite the storied history of this cemetery nor the famous Americans who are buried there. However, because there is limited space for in-ground burial at the cemetery, in 1967 the Army adopted rules restricting eligibility as to which veterans can be buried at ANC. (ANC will provide space for cremated remains in its columbaria for an honorably discharged veteran eligible for burial at any of the other national cemeteries.) In general, Army rules restrict in-ground burial at ANC to veterans who were wounded in combat, died on active duty, received one of the military services' highest awards for gallantry, were held as a prisoner of war, or retired from military service. In addition, veterans who do not meet these criteria but whose served in a high Federal office (e.g. cabinet secretary, Supreme Court justice, Member of the House or Senate) are also eligible, as are the immediate family members of all veterans buried there.

Under the current Army rules, which few Americans are familiar with, a reservist who has retired from the Armed Forces but is not yet age 60 is ineligible for in-ground burial at ANC. Similarly, members of the reserve components who die while performing training duty on a weekend or for a two-week period are not eligible for in-ground burial at ANC, even though servicemembers who die in similar circumstances while on active duty would be eligible for such burial.

Given the increased responsibilities assigned to our Reserve and National Guard forces, I believe that a compassionate government should treat these reserve component members whose death is in the line of duty in the same manner as those active duty members whose death occurs in the line of duty. We should honor their service and the loss of their lives the same, even though their families may elect not to bury them at Arlington. That is the purpose of this legislation, and I urge Members to support it.

IN HONOR OF SHARONNIE M. PERRY

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 6, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the outstanding community service of Sharonnie M. Perry.

Sharonnie Perry was born in Bedford Stuyvesant in Brooklyn, New York. She is the mother of two sons, Da-Shawn and Jah-Son and the proud grandmother of Jayla and Jah-Son.

Serving her church and her community for over thirty years, Sharonnie has distinguished herself as a hard worker committed to service. She is part of numerous community organizations, including Our Lady of Charity Church, The Knights of Peter Claver Auxiliary Court 229 and Solid Ground Ministries where she works closely with Father James E. Goode and Grandlady Carmela Rodriguez. Involving herself in the politics of the community. She has served as a campaign manager for some of Brooklyn's most powerful elected officials from all levels of government. Sharonnie is currently the District Director in my Fulton Street Office as well as the Chairperson of Community Board 5.

Following her motto: "I have come to serve and not be served", Sharonnie has received numerous awards and acknowledgements for her tireless efforts. By extending her hands to those in need and dedicating her life to her brothers and sister. Sharonnie has brought hope to those on the verge of giving up. As Co-Chair of the Ladies HIV/AIDS and Homeless Ministry, she helps to provide meals, shelter and the comfort of visitation to those many choose to forget. As the founder of the First Women's Day to be held in the Catholic Church, Sharonnie raised over \$75,000 in funds to buy a church van for Our Lady of Charity Church and to make renovations in the Malcolm-Bethune Hall.

Sharonnie has evangelized on both the local and national levels. Performing the opening prayer service at the National Convention for the Knights of Peter Claver Ladies Auxiliary for the past six years has been one of her greatest pleasures. She has had the honor of being invited to be the keynote speaker at the Young Black Achievers program and the HIV/AIDS prayer service in the Archdiocese of New York. Using a very personal and "hands on" approach, Sharonnie has been invited over and over again to conduct workshops across the City. Most recently, she facilitated the HIV/AIDS workshop for the Office of Black Catholics in the Bronx. Sharonnie, also conducted a workshop in July 2001 for the National Gathering of Black Catholic Women sponsored by the National Black Sister Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Speaker, Sharonnie Perry's contributions to Brooklyn have definitely improved the quality of life for her neighbors and her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.